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# BYLAWS OF THE DOVER SCHOOL BOARD CITY OF DOVER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

**ARTICLE I: Name** 

Section 1. The name of the School Board shall be the Dover School Board.

**ARTICLE II: Members** 

**Section 1**. The School Board shall be composed of seven members in accordance with Section C4.2 of the City Charter.

#### **ARTICLE III: Officers**

- **Section 1**. The officers of the School Board shall be a chairperson, a vice-chairperson, and a secretary. These officers shall perform the duties prescribed by these bylaws and by the parliamentary authority adopted by this School Board.
- **Section 2**. Officers shall serve a one-year term. Officers shall be elected in accordance with Section C4-2 of the City Charter.
- **Section 3**. These officers shall be elected as prescribed in Article IV, Section C4-3, of the City Charter.
- **Section 4**. Any officer may be removed from his/her office by a majority vote of the School Board at any regularly scheduled, monthly, public meeting.

# **ARTICLE IV: Meetings**

- **Section 1**. All meetings of the School Board shall be held in the rooms designated by the School Board or the chairperson. The School Board shall meet for organization on the day stipulated by Section C4.3 of the Charter.
- **Section 2**. The School Board shall hold its regular monthly meeting on the second Monday of each month. Changes may be made in this schedule due to conflicts with holidays. Regular meetings shall begin at 7 p.m. and end no later than 10 p.m. unless otherwise determined by a two-thirds vote of the members present.

The School Board shall meet on the fourth Monday of each month in workshop session if there is business to be conducted. Workshop sessions shall begin at 6:30 p.m. and end no later than 10 p.m. unless otherwise determined by a two-thirds vote of the members present.

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Nonpublic sessions may be held at the request of the chairperson, or the Superintendent, or by three members of the School Board, through written petition to the chair. The contents of these meetings shall conform to governing state law, RSA 91-A.

**Section 3**. Special meetings shall be called by the chairperson at any time or upon written request of three members. Each call for a special meeting shall distinctly specify the purpose for which the meeting is called. No other than such specific matters shall be considered at such special meetings except for emergency in accordance with RSA 91-A. At least twenty-four hours notice shall be given for such special meetings.

**Section 4**. A majority of the members of the School Board shall constitute a quorum.

**Section 5**. The meetings of the School Board shall be called to order promptly on the hour and then should proceed as follows:

- A. ROLL CALL
- B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- C. CITIZEN'S FORUM
- D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
- E. CONSENT CALENDAR
- F. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
- G. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT
- H. COMMITTEE REPORTS, INCLUDING LEGISLATIVE UPDATE
- I. POLICIES-CHANGES-PROPOSALS
- J. POLICY ADOPTION
- K. SUBMISSION AND PAYMENT OF BILLS
- L. RESOLUTIONS
- M. OLD BUSINESS
- N. NEW BUSINESS
- O. SCHOOL BOARD MATTERS OF INTEREST
- P. ADJOURNMENT

**Section 6**. The following shall appear on all meeting agendas, except nonpublic meetings.

Citizens are invited to all public meetings and shall be given an opportunity to speak. Time shall be set aside for citizen statements at all public meetings, unless a vote to the contrary is taken by the School Board.

Statements shall be limited to five minutes unless otherwise extended by the chairperson, with the approval of the School Board.

All citizens are permitted to place items on the agenda through written application to the Superintendent at least one week prior to the meeting date.

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Citizen items will require a formal motion and a second by seated members to bring the item to the floor for debate.

- **Section 7**. All items for the agenda from School Board members shall be submitted in writing to the Superintendent's office before noon on the Tuesday preceding the regular meeting. The chairperson shall determine the order of the agenda for each meeting.
- **Section 8**. The School Board shall be composed of seven members. Every member present, when a question is put, shall vote for or against the same, unless he or she abstains.
- **Section 9**. The ayes and nays upon all questions of appropriations of money shall be called and entered upon the minutes and on all other questions at the request of any member.
- **Section 10**. The Dover School Board shall act in accordance with the New Hampshire "Right to Know Law" (RSA 91-A) as amended.
- **Section 11**. The following paragraph is to appear on all regular meeting agenda:

All meetings, except nonpublic meetings, conducted by the School Board are open to the public.

**Section 12**. A notice of the time and place of each meeting shall be posted in two appropriate public places and/or shall be printed in a newspaper of general circulation in Dover, at least twenty-four hours, excluding Sundays and legal holidays, prior to such meetings.

## **ARTICLE V: Workshop Session**

- **Section 1**. The Workshop Session shall be defined as a non-policy making meeting of the entire School Board. Said Workshop Session shall assemble for purposes of discussion on topics to prepare the School Board for understanding and action at a subsequent policy-making meeting.
- **Section 2**. The secretary shall see that proper minutes of the proceedings are kept on file in the office of the School Board.

#### **ARTICLE VI: Power and Duties of the School Board**

**Section 1**. The Dover School Board shall be the governing body of the Dover School District and derives its authority from State laws and Department of Education Rules.

## Section 2. 189:1-a Duty to Provide Education

I. It shall be the duty of the school board to provide, at district expense, elementary and secondary education to all pupils who reside in the district until such time as the pupil

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has acquired a high school diploma or has reached age 21, whichever occurs first; provided, that the board may exclude specific pupils for gross misconduct or for neglect or refusal to conform to the reasonable rules of the school, and further provided that this section shall not apply to pupils who have been exempted from school attendance in accordance with RSA 193:5.

- II. Elected school boards shall be responsible for establishing the structure, accountability, advocacy, and delivery of instruction in each school operated and governed in its district. To accomplish this end, and to support flexibility in implementing diverse educational approaches, school boards shall establish, in each school operated and governed in its district, instructional policies that establish instructional goals based upon available information about the knowledge and skills pupils will need in the future.
- **Section 3.** The School Board is legally responsible for the establishment of school policies and programs, the determining of the budgetary requirements of the schools, the election of regular employees of the district, and the evaluation of the results obtained. The School Board shall take final action upon recommendation of the Superintendent where the election or assignment of personnel or a change of policy and/or program is involved.
- **Section 4.** The secretary shall keep a full and accurate record of attendance and proceedings of all meetings of the School Board and shall have the care and custody of all records, papers, and communications relative to the School Board.
- **Section** 5. The School Board shall have the oversight of the financial condition of the School District and shall cause to have prepared and presented a financial statement each month.
- **Section 6.** A payroll summary ledger and/or vendor check register will be issued for signature to the Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson on a weekly basis. The School Board shall be presented a manifest of all general fund expenditures for the preceding month, and this shall be issued to the Board for a majority signature of all members present.
- **Section 7.** The School Board shall take action on all matters which pertain to the administration of the schools which calls for the investigation of violations of the regulations of the School Board, complaints made by staff, parents, or pupils, and complaints against staff, provided such complaints cannot be investigated and satisfactorily resolved by the Superintendent of Schools.
- **Section 8.** The Board shall serve as the governing body of School Administrative Unit #11; a School District established under the laws of the State of New Hampshire. The Board shall provide all Superintendent services as described in RSA 194-C:4.

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#### **ARTICLE VII: Subcommittees**

**Section 1**. Subcommittees necessary to the proper functioning of the Dover School Board may be appointed at any regular or special meeting by the chairperson with the consent of a majority of the membership present. Such subcommittees shall report to the full School Board and, when appropriate, to the public, at each regular meeting of the School Board, and a final report shall be submitted to the School Board at the conclusion of a subcommittee's work.

**Section 2**. The chairperson shall serve as ex-officio member of all committees.

**Section 3**: The Discipline Committee shall be the only permanent standing committee of the School Board.

**Section 4:** The School Board shall affirm from its membership reporting members to the following positions. Each reporting member shall propose all business that requires debate and a vote to the entire Board at the earliest possible meeting date. Committee assignments shall be appointed by the chairperson and approved by the School Board.

Vocational Trust
City Council Liaison
Joint Fiscal Committee
Joint Building Committee
Legislative Representative with NHSBA
Dover Adult Learning Center Liaison
Discipline Committee
Career Technical Center Advisory Committee
Professional Development Master Plan Committee
Curriculum Planning Committee
Wellness Advisory Committee
Standards Policy Review Committee (Policy IKE)

# **ARTICLE VIII: Parliamentary Authority**

**Section 1**. The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the School Board in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order the School Board may adopt. Each one-year term of the School Board shall constitute a session as defined in Robert's Rules of Order.

#### **ARTICLE IX: Amendment of Bylaws**

**Section 1**. These bylaws can be amended at any regular meeting of the School Board by a two-thirds vote, provided that the amendment has been submitted in writing to the entire membership at the preceding regular meeting. For sixty days following the inauguration these bylaws can be amended at any meeting of the School Board by a

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majority vote, provided that the amendment has been submitted in writing to the entire membership at the preceding meeting.

# **ARTICLE X: Student Representative to Dover School Board**

**Section 1**. The student representative is responsible for presenting current student issues to the School Board. The student representative shall represent his/her constituents in the same manner as a regular School Board official.

**Section 2**. Eligible students must be entering the tenth, eleventh, or twelfth grade; they will be required to fill an application which will be reviewed by the student council advisors and administrative staff. Finalists will be selected and will be allowed to run in a general election concurrent with the class elections. The student body as a whole will be responsible in voting the student representative. The term of the elected student representative shall run from the meeting following the student council election.

**Section 3.** The student representative shall be a non-voting member of the School Board. RSA 189:1,C.

Amended: March 12, 2001

May 14, 2001
January 7, 2002
January 13, 2003
February 2, 2004
February 14, 2005
January 3, 2006
January 8, 2007
January 7, 2008
January 12, 2009
March 8, 2010
February 13, 2012